



DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

WEEKLY NEWS DIGEST

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2021 Annual MLK Celebration

Join UNC Charlotte and the Office of Identity, Equity, and Engagement for the 2021 Annual MLK Celebration. The annual celebration honors the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's virtual program will include a welcome, remarks by Chancellor Gaber, a keynote by Ted Shaw, and closing remarks.

Ted Shaw is the Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and the Director of the UNC Center for Civil Rights. Shaw teaches at the university and his research areas include the Fourteenth Amendment, affirmative action, and fair housing policies. Among his scores of honors are the 2012 Harlem Neighborhood Defenders Office W. Haywood Burns Humanitarian Award and the 2012 Office of the Appellate Defender Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Advocacy. Shaw has published many book chapters, articles, and essays on civil rights, including the introduction to "The Ferguson Report: United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division."

Shaw attended Columbia University Law School as a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow. He then practiced as a Trial Attorney in the Honors Program of the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division in Washington, D.C. In 1982, Shaw joined the staff of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF). He worked for over 26 years, including litigating cases related to elementary, secondary and higher education, housing, voting rights, and capital punishment. Shaw worked closely with Julius Chambers, a North Carolina native and civil rights leader.

- Tuesday, January 26, 3:30 PM, Virtual via Zoom ([RSVP](#))
(Registrants will receive Zoom streaming information prior to the event.)

Shawn Long Remembered for a Joyous Life of Leadership, Service, Friendship

Shawn Long, a beloved colleague who served UNC Charlotte and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (CLAS) for almost two decades as a faculty member and administrator, passed away on January 14 following a serious illness. Long joined Kennesaw State University in Georgia as Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences in July 2019. Colleagues and friends describe Long as a focused and inspirational leader, teacher, and mentor with a huge heart who made sure people were heard, accepted, and appreciated. Read more about [Shawn Long here](#).

Online Learning 101 for Students New to Online Learning

The UNC System Office has prepared an [Online Learning 101](#) resource; this resource was created to serve as an asset for faculty to provide to students who are new to online learning.

Nominations Open for Graduate School Fellowships

Nominations for the Herschel and Cornelia Everett First-Year Master's and Doctoral Graduate Fellowship and Wayland H. Cato Doctoral Fellowship are open for 2021 awards. These fellowships, which are available only to outstanding UNC Charlotte graduate students, are administered by the Graduate School each year. Awards begin in the upcoming academic year. The deadline to submit nominations is March 15, 2021. To nominate, please visit the Scholarship Office [Nomination Portal](#). March 30 is the deadline for student applications for nominated and matched awards. The application is available through the Scholarship Office [Application Portal](#). For more information, visit the Graduate School's [Fellowships](#) site.

Few Seats Remain for January Mentor Training

The Graduate School's upcoming Mentor Training session has a few more openings. Graduate faculty are invited to enroll for the January 28-29 session. The class runs from 9:30-12:30 each day. To register, please complete the [Mentor Training registration form](#). The form will be closed when all seats are taken.

Personally Speaking Features Falling Felines and Fundamental Physics

Why do falling cats always land on their feet? The question has long intrigued humans. Discover in this Personally Speaking talk how the solution stumped brilliant minds and how it helped solve other seemingly impossible puzzles. Dr. Gregory Gbur is a cat parent. He also is a physicist who specializes in the study of classical coherence theory in optical physics and a professor in the Department of Physics and Optical Science in UNC Charlotte's College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. While the conversation will be virtual, it will be interactive. [Register here](#) by 5 p.m. Friday, February 19. The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences will send registrants a link to join the talk; a recording of the talk will also be shared on YouTube later. Learn more about the series on the [College's website](#), and see the first two events of the season on the [College's YouTube channel](#).

DailyChatter Newsletter: Free Subscription to Faculty, Staff, and Students

The Office of International Programs has teamed up with [DailyChatter](#), an international daily newsletter that curates some of the most interesting and important global developments and prepares a conversational, easy-to-read report designed to be read on your smartphone or any other digital device. DailyChatter is independent and non-partisan and your subscription is entirely free for as long as you or your students are part of UNC Charlotte. Feel free to invite your students to register for the free subscription. Learn how to [subscribe](#).

2021 Undergraduate Research Conference (URC)

The UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Conference (URC) 2021 will be a virtual conference this year and will be held over a course of two days -- Thursday, April 15 and Friday, April 16. Please encourage your students to submit their research to the virtual URC 2021. The URC 2021 registration form will open on Monday, January 25, and will close at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 26. Please have your students visit the [URC website](#) to register.

The Office of Undergraduate Research is also seeking faculty, staff, and doctoral students to serve as judges for the URC 2021. Please click on the [URC 2021 Judges Recruitment Form](#) to indicate your availability to judge posters and/or oral presentations at the URC 2021.

OUR Summer 2021 Undergraduate Research Experience

The Office of Undergraduate Research is gearing up for the summer research program. Applications will open on Wednesday, January 13, and will close on Sunday, January 31, 2021. To apply for the summer program and to read about Faculty Projects for the 2021 Summer Research Program, visit the [OUR Summer Research Program](#) and click on *See Project Description*.

CWP Supplements Your Curriculum with Wellness Education Workshops

The Center for Wellness Promotion (CWP) is excited to announce the continuation of the Discover Your Wellness (DYW) Passport Program virtually in Spring 2021. Faculty, be reminded that there is still time to consider registering for the program in Spring 2021. To participate in the DYW Passport Program, please complete [this google form](#) by January 22. For more information, reach out to [Valerie Henderson](#), the Coordinator of the [Discover Your Wellness Passport Program](#),

About the Discover Your Wellness Passport Program: Health and wellness are tied to academic achievement and overall student success. Participating in the DYW Passport Program is a partnership between the CWP and faculty partners

designed to incentivize students' attendance at important campus workshops and training on a myriad of health and wellness topics while connecting students to our many campus resources. By participating in this initiative, faculty can assign students in their class(es) to attend approved DYW events as an assignment and incentivize participation by making this part of their course grade or offer other incentives (e.g., extra credit, etc.). The Center for Wellness Promotion lets faculty know which students attended which workshops and events so that they may track their students' participation.

RED Announces Spring 2021 Ignite Planning Grants Program

Research and Economic Development (RED) is soliciting applications for the [Spring 2021 Ignite Planning Grants](#) program. Ignite Planning Grants promote new collaborative research efforts and facilitate the development of interdisciplinary teams focused on preparing competitive, large-scale collaborative proposals for significant external funding. Ignite planning grants are intended to enhance existing areas of excellence, accelerate the development of emerging research strengths, and foster interactions between UNC Charlotte faculty and potential collaborators at other institutions. The program aims to lower and eliminate barriers to building collaborative teams and coordinating, planning, and preparing large, interdisciplinary multi-investigator research proposals by providing funds to (1) convene conferences and meetings, (2) coordinate workshops, (3) support travel costs for potential collaborators from other institutions, (4) hire grant-writing consultants and content specialists, and (5) conduct other proposal-development and team-development activities.

Proposals must be submitted electronically as an email attachment to ignite-planning@uncc.edu by 5:00 pm EDT on February 15, 2021. Questions regarding this program announcement should be directed to Lesley Brown, Director of the Center for Research Excellence.

Lesley Brown will hold an Ignite overview session via [Zoom](#) on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, from 3:00-4:00 p.m. to answer any questions you may have about the program.

Ventureprise Launch NSF I-Corps Spring 2021 Cohort Now Accepting Applications

Join 300+ UNC Charlotte Faculty and Students that have already completed the Ventureprise Launch program. Receive up to \$5000 for your research or business idea. Apply to participate in the Spring 2021 Ventureprise Launch National Science Foundation I-Corps Virtual Cohort. The program provides UNC Charlotte faculty, staff and students with commercialization training and new NSF funding. Program is designed for you to work at your own pace with interview and funding goals. This virtual cohort with a tiered approach, launching on February 17. The goal of the program is to identify potential commercial uses for technology and research. The next stage is a six month \$50,000 NSF I-Corps Teams grant. Applications are currently open and are reviewed as they are submitted. Applications will close February 10. More information and the application form can be found on the [NSF I-Corps webpage](#). For additional questions, contact [Devin Collins](#) or [Laura Smailes](#).

Faculty Toolkit for Teaching During the Pandemic

Resources for faculty and staff teaching and advising during the 2020-21 academic year are available on the [Office of the Provost website](#). This includes the new grading exception policy, FAQs, suggested syllabus policies, how to handle student absences during COVID, a list of faculty mentors for remote instruction advice, resources from the Center of Teaching and Learning and other helpful resources.

Dissertation Defenses

The dissertation defense is one of the ways a new scholar demonstrates readiness to join the academy and is an opportunity to share their research widely. [View All Dissertation Defense Announcements](#)

Latest AA News

For up-to-the-minute news from Academic Affairs (faculty awards, research, recognition, initiatives), follow us on Twitter (www.twitter.com/UNCC_Academics) or visit the [Academic Affairs Division News webpage](#).

Upcoming Events

This Week:

Jan-Feb [UNC Charlotte Botanical Gardens events](#)

Jan-Feb [Diversity events](#)

Upcoming: provost.uncc.edu/division-news/weekly-news-digest/upcoming-events

*The [DAA News Digest](#) is distributed each Monday to Academic Affairs faculty and staff.
To have items included in the digest, complete the [NEWS DIGEST REQUEST FORM](#).
Deadline for submission is 11:00 a.m. every Friday.*